

EVERY reader interested in Canadian affairs was surprised at the overturning of political parties in the recent election — and everybody wondered. Mr. Edward W. Thomson understands Canada and her men, knows Canadian officials as well as or better than any other man. He has written on Canadian affairs for several decades. Coming from him this explanation of the Canadian election is doubly interesting.

THE United Farmers' Order or Party of Ontario, Canada's chief province, amazed and shocked the regulars of politics in October by electing 45 members of the provincial legislature to an assembly of 111 representatives.

Previously the Farmers were not united at all, but scattered their votes between the regular "Tory" and "Grit" parties. Now they seem likely to arrange a coalition with the eleven Labor representatives surprisingly elected by various cities.

Probably some of the elected 25 Tories, 28 Grits, and two Independents will cheerfully coalesce with the Farm and Labor representatives, so enabling a Farmer premier to establish and maintain a strong provincial government.

Meantime the regular parties have been knocked out. Fellow feeling in disaster makes them so wondrous kind that some of their representatives talk seriously of coalescing to oppose "Farmer Domination!"

All of which is wonderful and delightful to those old timers, like myself, who have long been Independents and intend to stay so. Meantime we observe, with no surprise, that the American press, depending on Canadian informants affiliated with or subjected to one or the other of our regular Canadian parties, has had no reasonable explanation of the Ontario Farmers' successful revolt.

To me, who has been closely watching the game for some fifty years, the uprising signifies primarily that the native-born Britishry of Ontario have lost patience with the long ascendancy of the old-country-born in this Dominion, just as the French Canadians have long shown similar sentiment.

A great majority of Ontario farmers are native-born; most of them are children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren of the native-born. Their patriotism is for "Canada first, last, and all the time"—which was Laurier's election cry in 1904.

Since that time they have been pretty constantly dragooned and plundered by politicians touting to the "Imperial" sentiment of imported hustlers and busters and "Society" aspirants. With the mere adventurers who treated Canada as a field for exploitation of the native-born, and especially of the farmers, "Canada First" sentiment was anathema. Be it observed that they meant no harm. But they did hunger and thirst for money-making and for political power "even as some after righteousness."

Let me tell you a little story or anecdote, absolutely true, which illustrates the general attitude of the imported Britishry in Canada, as in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and other Dominions. In the

The Canadian Revolt Against "The Old Order"

By EDWARD W. THOMSON

winter of 1907, when times were hard in Canada generally, a lady, sister to one of Sir Robert Borden's present ministry, was secretary to the Association for the Relief of the Poor of Shacktown, a slum-suburb of Toronto. The poor there were almost all immigrant Englishry, good enough folk, mostly Cockneys. Two of the men were overheard, while at a meal, by the specified lady, my informant.

Spoke one: "I sy, Bill, ynt it good of these yer Canjens to feed us up like this?"

"Good of 'em! Ynt it their dooty? Don't we hown 'em?" replied the other.

Which was, by the way, just about the attitude with which native-born Ontarians viewed the native folk of the Canadian prairie-West forty years ago. And just about how all ordinary imperial-minded emigrants to colonized or subject countries view the native-born, as witness the late Senator Hoar's remarks on the attitude of Americans in the Philippine Islands, shortly after Aguinaldo had been suppressed for demanding the liberties promised by Admiral Dewey. The Shacktown man merely illustrated usual human nature.

Well, native-born Ontarians in general, not farmers only, are sick and tired of the "don't we hown 'em" attitude of the hustling, bumptious immigrant Britishry. To these not ill-meaning folk both the regular political parties of Ontario, and indeed all Canada (except Quebec) have been grovelling for some ten or more years. In this period the two regular parties rushed Canada into the war without any sort of consultation with or mandate from the electorate, mainly native-born folk, who must pay the whole shot, since there are really no self-supporting industries in Canada except those of farmers, miners, lumbermen, and fishermen, nearly all native-born. The city industries, mostly operated by immigrant folk, are essentially "pauper industries," since their owners admit or even contend that they could not be carried on without heavy import taxes favoring them, i. e., shutting out American, English, and other commodities far more cheaply produced.

"Protection" by tariff-tax in the United States is utterly unlike "protection" in Canada. Americans are about one hundred and twenty millions of people, abiding in all climates from Mexico to Manitoba. Inside their tariff-fence they are about the greatest free-traders in the world. Canadians number about eight millions, all in a narrow strip of cold climate; freight rates on exchange of their home-manufactures are enormous; the "protective" tariff is ruinous to them; farmers and other producers of "naturals" have to pay the whole vast cost of keeping up manufactures in our pampered cities, mainly for the benefit of immigrant Britishry, etc.

On behalf of free trade and unlimited reciprocity with the United States our Ontario Farmers have re-

volted, and will probably revolt again, whenever Dominion general elections shall have arrived.

Again, Ontario Farmers have been profoundly influenced by the huge financial success of the Grain Growers' Co-operative Association in prairie Canada—Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, etc. This association, largely guided by Mr. T. A. Crerar, formerly Minister of Agriculture in Sir Robert Borden's coalition cabinet, not only markets grain enormously but supplies staple goods, groceries, etc., to the western farmers, doing a business profitably of about one hundred million dollars annually, and dividing the gains among the associated farmers. The United Ontario Farmers mean to use their newly acquired political strength in fostering a similar co-operative association in Ontario.

Many other factors went to solidify our good Ontario farmers. They were angered by Ottawa's enforcement of conscription, by connivance or approval of the Hearst Ministry, after they had been promised that conscription would not be enforced on the farming folk.

They were not pleased with the Hearst or Toronto Tory Ministry in respect of liquor. Though Mr. Hearst brought war-time prohibition into effect, he was on friendly terms with various elements strongly hostile to prohibition. Hence the farmers believed the safe way was for them themselves to get hold of the keys and bar the doors against Old King Alcohol.

Finally, all who intimately know Canadian politics are aware that both the regular parties have been slavish to railway magnates and other big interests. Consequently many rushes have been made on the various public treasuries of Canada, all perpetrated at the ultimate expense of farmers, and other producers of naturals. No wonder Ontario's native-born have arisen against the system long in vogue. And no wonder the most intelligent of the Labor party incline to ally with the triumphant Farmers, knowing well that "laboring men and laboring women have one glory and one shame. Everything that's done inhuman injures all of them the same." So spoke James Russell Lowell in the famous Biglow Papers.

How our regular politicians shiver just now! Ontario has scared them white. They never expected to "see a tater all on eend at bein' biled." Now they shudder at the grand prospect of an era of honest politics in this Dominion.

God bless our farmers!

"Another Viewpoint of the Canadian Turnover" is the title of a second very interesting article on this election, to appear in next week's Dearborn Independent.

Dutch Delftware

THE most celebrated product of the Dutch ceramic industry is the blue-and-white delftware. Its origin goes back to the beginning of the seventeenth century and resulted from an effort to imitate the Chinese blue-and-white jars and plates which were just being introduced from the Orient.

The industry flourished in the seventeenth as well as the eighteenth century. It extended from its original home in Delft to a number of other cities, and Delft alone, at the height of the industry, boasted 30 earthenware factories. Vases, plates, tiles, and ornaments of all descriptions were produced in profusion and went to adorn the houses of the period. From the original blue-and-white, the makers launched into a variety of colors and designs, finding their inspiration for the latter in the familiar scenes of Dutch daily life.

In the second half of the eighteenth century the market for delft declined, owing to the flooding of the European market with cheaper porcelains imported directly from the Orient, to the successful imitation of delftware by the French factories, and to the success of the English Wedgwood ware. The Dutch factories were gradually compelled to close down until, after 1850, only one of the establishments which had made the fame of Delft survived. This factory, with the aid of the last of the tile painters who knew the old art, revived the industry in 1876. The success of their efforts to make blue-and-white delftware along the old designs has established the business on a firm basis.

The study of the characteristic makers' marks and designs of the antique delft is a science in itself. "Genuine" delft of the present day is considered to be the output of a single factory at Delft, the only present survivor of the thirty factories that flourished in that city. This factory has the credit of reviving an industry that was threatened with extinction. "Imitation" delft is made in the familiar blue-and-white designs at Gouda. The Dutch factories make, moreover, a considerable quantity and variety of the ordinary grades of chinaware for table service and other domestic uses. Some of these follow the delft patterns; others Japanese and Chinese designs.



E. C. DRURY

Farmers came to the front in the Ontario elections with such suddenness and eclat that the regular politicians have not recovered their balance yet. So complete was the reversal of the old party line-up that a coalition government was formed by the United Farmers' party and the Labor party, the two uniting on E. C. Drury, Farmer, as their choice for prime minister. It was known that the war had exercised an almost revolutionary effect on Canadian sentiment, but the depth and thoroughness of it had escaped even the keenest prophets.

A Land Valuation

FOR a little plot of land measuring 40 by 42 feet the sum of \$450,000 was recently paid. This portion of the earth's surface, smaller than a cottage yard, was situated near Wall Street in New York. On ground reckoned worth \$233 per square foot a bank building will be erected.

Such a reckoning of values might be startling indeed to one of the early Dutch pioneers, to whom Wall Street meant the wall of defense for his settlement against enemies, red or white. And some might say that this use of land is to remove it far from the intention of Nature. Some poetic souls look upon our great cities and long for the old days of woodland and meadow.

It is true that the earth to be broken for this bank once was green and turf. It is true that it will now be covered with concrete and marble for centuries and perhaps forever. But we must remember that when the Dutch pioneers were alone in New York, when the Bowery was indeed the Bouwerie or farm of a sturdy settler, there was no need for such a bank as now will rise on the site of the ancient fortification.

The Dutch settlers covered a portion of the earth's surface with warehouses and shops, even as today. They needed some room for their money and their transactions in money. And more room was not needed, more bank buildings were not needed, until the great wilderness behind began to yield to civilization. Today the light of civilization has penetrated to every fastness of this continent, and prosperity enriches mankind from coast to coast. And the enterprise that goes forth from New York penetrates the darkness of a thousand dark regions, so that the business done in New York is the commerce of the ends of the earth.

So when we see the ancient hoary wilderness give place to business, we need not pine for the past. We can rather rejoice at the thousands of islands opened to civilization, at the thriving farms of the immeasurable West, and the humming industries of the wide earth. A few rods for business and a million fields for tillage, and square feet are precious here because so many idle acres have grown valuable under the waving wand of civilized commerce.